

The Place That Few Go! (Slide 1)
Follow The Map of Faith!

Reading: Matthew 7:13-20

People say the sign of a good restaurant is measured by the crowd. If there are few customers, the food or service must not be very good. If there are a lot of people, then both service and food must be excellent.

Is it possible to go to a restaurant that has a large crowd and still has bad food or even bad service?

I certainly think so. I know a particular fast food chain that is packed with crowds of people during just about every hour of the day and evening. Yet, personally, I don't like the food and sometimes the service is bad and your order is messed up!

So, it may be wise to not always follow the crowd. Sometimes our taste and our desire is completely different than the majority. To be frank, to be Christ-like, we better have completely different tastes and desires than the majority.

Our Christian walk of life!

2 Corinthians 5:7 (Slide 2)

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

In our walk with Christ, we choose a path that, in reality, not many follow. We aren't driven by what we can see or taste. Though proof positive is in and around the earth for a Creator. Rather, we are driven by who and what we believe. Whom we place our trust in!

The ultimate guide to our final destination as a Christian is built on trust. If I desire to see God and to be with Him in Heaven, a place I've never seen but

have only read and heard about, then I have to trust in the promises God has made about Heaven.

This is a journey plotted by faith and not by sight. It requires me to be different and "To not follow the majority!" To forsake earthly desires that many portray as great, to sometimes forsake friends, and sometimes even loved ones to make it to my spiritual habitation.

I have to have faith in God and what He promises.

Abraham was given 7 promises from God in:

Genesis 12:1-3 (Slide 3)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

(Slide 4) 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Abraham did not have to sojourn and begin his travel toward the promised land. He didn't have to do any of the things he did! Yet, he believed (had faith) in and trusted God.

The promise of a Great Nation!

Genesis 15:1-6 (Slide 5)

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" (Slide 6) 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

5 Then He brought him outside and said, (Slide 7) "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

And that Nation became great through that promised son, Isaac who in turn begat Jacob the grandson of Abraham! Jacob's name became Israel!

Exodus 1:7 (Slide 8)

But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Abraham, because of his faith and continued loyalty, was blessed by God even unto his old age!

Genesis 24:1 (Slide 9)

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Abraham's name is one that even today is known in every sector of our society due to his character, loyalty and trust in God! Even the secular world has heard of Abraham, though many believe he is a fictitious character.

Yet, not all of Abraham's followers took on his character. They were driven by something else.

John 8:37-40 (Slide 10)

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

(Slide 11) Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

The majority of people followed their Jewish spiritual leaders of Jesus' day in rejecting what the life of Abraham really pointed towards which is Christ Jesus!

Why? Because they were self-serving in every aspect of their lives including how they viewed and worshipped God. They followed their own appetite.

One has to wonder if we see that same motivation when we see large crowds at some supposed spiritual venues each and every Lord's Day!

What's in it for me?

The reality:

Worship isn't about me!

It isn't about you!

It's about God and whether or not we trust Him and truly Love Him. Sure, we benefit from worship! But ultimately, we worship because our debt has been canceled and because of His Great Love for us! Abraham knew that!

Blessed because of Abraham!

Because God said so and because of Abraham's Character, those who blessed him God blessed.

Hebrews 7:1-10 (Slide 12)

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," (Slide 13) and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, (Slide 14) to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. 5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their

brethren, (Slide 15) though they have come from the loins of Abraham; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. (Slide 16) 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. 9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

You don't have to understand everything said here to understand these simple points of these Holy relationships:

**This is God's way!*

**These are God's people!*

**These are those who through faith and obedience were continuously blessed!*

**This is the character we should strive for and who we should want to be associated with!*

"Those who curse the promise God made to Abraham will be cursed!"

Numbers 21:21-25 (Slide 17)

21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, 22 "Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory." (Slide 18) 23 But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and he came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. 24 Then Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword, (Slide 19) and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the people of Ammon; for the border of the people of Ammon was fortified. 25 So Israel took all these cities, and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and in all its villages.

There is no reason to believe that those who continually curse the promises of God will not experience His curse as an unbeliever. In fact, the Bible is crystal clear on this point.

Matthew 13:41-42 (Slide 20)

41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:47-50 (Slide 21)

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, (Slide 22) but threw the bad away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

The promises to Abraham are fulfilled in Jesus Christ today of which we receive the greatest blessing.

Galatians 3:7-9 (Slide 23)

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Invitation

Our God has laid out His promises through Abraham of which we, through the blood of Christ, can share in those promises and the blessings produced from them.

However, we must first be aligned through faith with the faith of Abraham to receive those blessings.

Are you in and among those who Christ sanctified through His blood? If not, we implore you today to be baptized. What hinders you?

If you are a child of God but need the faithful prayers of your Brethren in Christ, please let us know and we will pray with you and for you.

Let us know how we may assist you in your walk with Christ Jesus.....

Reading:

Matthew 7:13-20

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

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